

WHITEFIELD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



INTERIM REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND
Sanitary Inspector
FOR THE YEAR 1944.

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Whitefield Urban District Council.

Chairman of the Council: Councillor H. LANGAN, J.P.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

1944.

Councillor D. W. McCLUNE, Chairman.

- „ F. CARLTON ANDERSON, C.C.
- „ J. AVERY, D.Sc.
- „ E. BROWN
- „ H. C. DEPLEDGE
- „ C. FARRAND, J.P.
- „ W. E. FAULKNER
- „ R. HALL, J.P.
- „ J. W. JONES, J.P.
- „ H. LANGAN, J.P.
- „ H. LONGWORTH
- „ P. WHITTLE.

Clerk of the Council—

C. F. PORTER, F.C.C.S., F.I.P.A.

Medical Officer of Health—

C. H. T. WADE, M.D., Ch.B., B.Ss., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent—

B. HODGSON, C.S.I. (Lond.), M.S.I.A.

INTERIM REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1944

August, 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Whitefield.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the sixth interim report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district. The report is confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected the Public Health during the year.

SECTION A.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

There has been no outstanding change in the health conditions of the district.

After two years freedom from diphtheria four cases have occurred, three (non-immunised children) being traced to a diphtheria carrier—a London evacuee. Immunisation clinics have been held regularly throughout the year.

The district is still affected by atmospheric pollution due to a chemical discharged by a works outside the area. The Alkali Inspector and others have taken steps to eliminate this trouble, but it still continues.

Smoke pollution, especially from surrounding areas, is also considerable. Now that the Smoke Abatement Regulations are in force it is hoped to reduce this. The volume of black smoke produced by many factories shows a complete disregard of the public health, and any action on our part would be helped by a stronger public opinion against this nuisance. Labour difficulties and inferior fuel are the usual excuses given.

Visits have been made to food premises, and recommendations have been issued for the guidance of staff in order to lessen the risk of outbreaks of food poisoning.

Tubercle bacilli were found in three milk samples out of twenty, and eight of a further twenty-five samples were bacteriologically unsatisfactory. All milk, therefore, should be boiled or heat treated before use.

A special campaign to reduce rats and thereby one source of danger to health has been conducted by the Sanitary Inspector under a National Scheme.

Table I. - STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

Area—3,261 acres.

Population—Registrar General's estimate of:—

resident population mid 1944 ... 11,610

No. of inhabited houses, according to Rate Books at the end of 1944—4,169.

Rateable Value 1944—£78,757.

Sum represented by a penny rate 1943/44—£320.

Table II. - VITAL STATISTICS, 1944.

			Total	M.	F.	Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—21.6.
Live Births	{	Legitimate ...	238	127	111	
		Illegitimate ...	12	6	6	
		Total ...	<u>250</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>117</u>	
Still Births	...	...	7	6	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—27.2.
Deaths (all ages)	...	...	128	69	59	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated average population—11.0.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

Puerperal Sepsis ... Nil.

Other puerperal causes Nil.

Death-rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births 24.0

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... 25.2

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 20

„ „ Measles (all ages) Nil.

„ „ Whooping-cough (all ages) Nil.

„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) Nil.

In Whitefield during 1944 there were twice as many births as deaths. The birth rate (21.6) was higher, and the death rate (11.0) was lower than that for England and Wales (17.6 and 11.6 respectively). There were no deaths from Measles, Whooping-cough, Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria. More than half of those who died attained the age of 65 years or over, and 14 (12%) reached the age of 80 years or more.

Table III.—CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1944.

CLASSIFIED LIST OF CAUSES.

Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	4
Tuberculosis (Non-Respiratory)	—	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	—
Cancer (stomach and duodenum)	2	1
„ (other sites)	13	4
Diabetes	—	1
Intra cranial vascular lesions	7	8
Heart Disease	20	15
Other circulatory diseases	1	3
Influenza	1	1
Bronchitis	4	2
Pneumonia	4	2
Other respiratory diseases	1	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	—
Other digestive diseases	—	2
Appendicitis	1	—
Nephritis	1	1
Premature birth... ..	1	2
Congenital malformation, birth injuries	1	1
Road traffic accidents	1	1
Other violent causes	—	2
All other causes	6	7
All Causes :—		69 59
TOTAL ...		128.

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There has been no important change in these provisions during the year.

The following pathological and bacteriological examinations were made during 1944:—

- (1) Diphtheria, 19.
- (2) Enteric Fever, 3.
- (3) Miscellaneous, 1.
- (4) Milk Samples:—
 - (a) Biological, 20. Three found to contain tubercle bacilli.
 - (b) Bacteriological, 25. 8 found to be unsatisfactory.
 - (c) Methylene Blue, 25. 7 found to be unsatisfactory.

Ambulance Facilities.—The Council have their own ambulance and full-time driver.

Reciprocal arrangements also exist with the adjoining Boroughs of Radcliffe and Prestwich.

826 calls for accident cases and private removals were received during the year, compared with 708 during 1943.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

One farm and three houses have been connected with the mains water supply. Mr. R. Wyllie, Water Engineer, Irwell Valley Water Board, reports:—

- (1) Bacteriological findings of raw water—no samples taken.
Bacteriological findings of water going into supply—satisfactory.
- (2) Chemical analyses—satisfactory. Water chlorinated at source to give a residual of 0.2 parts per million.
- (3) Plumbo-solvency.

The water is acid in character, but, owing to the closing down by the Ministry of Labour and National Service of our Laboratory, it has not been possible to carry out any work on this subject.

The return shortly of some of my staff will enable steps to be taken to correct this by the addition of lime to the water.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

Defects which have been found or notified have received attention. One cottage was recommended for demolition under Section XI of the Housing Act, 1936. Under the Post-War Housing programme several areas dealing with approximately 250 houses have been scheduled.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

(a) Licences.—The following licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938, have been issued :—

Tuberculin Tested Milk	(1) Bottling	Nil.
	(2) Distribution	Nil.
Accredited Milk	(1) Bottling	Nil.
	(2) Distribution	Nil.
Pasteurised Milk	(1) Bottling	Nil.
	(2) Retail Distributors	2.

(b) Dairies, Milk Shops.—There are 35 milk purveyors other than cow-keepers. Regular inspections of the premises were made during the year.

(c) Farms.— There are 18 dairy farms and 275 cows in the district. All the farms in the district were inspected monthly with a view to cleanliness, lime-washing and structural condition. The cleanliness of the cows and the milkers was also watched, together with methods for sterilising the utensils, cooling, bottling and sterilising the milk.

(d) Samples.

(1) For tuberculous milk—20 samples—three found to contain tubercle bacilli.

(2) For bacterial content—
25 samples—8 unsatisfactory.

(3) Methylene Blue Test—25 samples—7 unsatisfactory.

Repeatedly bad samples were obtained from one milk producer. He was asked to appear before the Health Committee, and thereafter the samples proved to be satisfactory.

Meat Supply.

Because of rationing, the meat supply and distribution are centralised and there is now very little local slaughtering. It is still very necessary to inspect meat coming into the shops.

Details are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report of Meat and other foods found to be unfit for human consumption.

Bakehouses, Food Shops, Fish Fryers, and Meat Shops.—

Routine inspections have been made of all the above premises throughout the year.—Conditions were found to be satisfactory. A poster relating to the need for personal cleanliness when handling food has been circulated to all Food Shops.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Scarlet Fever, Measles and Whooping-cough were widespread during the year. The infections were mild in character, complications were few and no deaths occurred.

Table IV.

Disease	Corr'cted Total of notified cases	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	42	34	—
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	4	4	—
Measles (excluding German Measles) ...	219	—	—
Whooping cough	58	—	—
Acute Pneumonia (Primary and Influenza)	16	—	—
Erysipelas... ..	3	2	—
Dysentery	1	1	—
Total number of cases ...	343	41	—

TABLE V.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1944.

DISEASE.	Total cases at all Ages.	CASES NOTIFIED.											
		Under 1 yr.	YEARS.									65 and over	
			1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45		45-65
Scarlet Fever	42 (48)	—	1	3	5	4	21	10	2	2	—	—	—
Measles)	219	5	14	18	26	22	120	6	5	2	—	1	—
Pneumonia	16	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	2	4	3	2
Erysipelas	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Diphtheria	4 (9)	—	—	—	—	—	2 (3)	1 (3)	—	1 (3)	—	—	—
German Measles	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
Para-Typhoid Fever	— (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (1)	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Whooping-cough	58	5	6	8	7	7	25	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	358	11	21	29	38	33	172	19	9	11	6	5	4

Figs. show actual numbers of cases after correction of diagnosis. Figs. in brackets represent original numbers of Notifications.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

A full report about this service has been given previously. Sessions have been held regularly at the School Clinic; the Birthday Card Scheme has continued to work satisfactorily. With the aid of this scheme and the valuable assistance of the County Council Child Welfare Service, seventy per cent. of the infants have been immunised. In addition, a number will have been treated privately.

TABLE VI.
DIPHTHERIA.

Year	No. of Cases	No. of Deaths
1933	17	1
1934	11	Nil.
1935	14	Nil.
1936	17	2
1937	14	1
1938	51	2
1939	32	1
*1940	6	1
1941	3	Nil.
1942	Nil.	Nil.
1943	Nil.	Nil.
1944	4	Nil.

*Immunisation Scheme started May, 1940

Percentage of children immunised : 1—5 years—70%

5—15 years—86%

Nine diphtheria cases were originally notified of which four were confirmed as clinical diphtheria. One of these cases was a member of N.A.A.F.I., whose infection almost certainly arose away from Whitefield and the remaining cases were three boys in one family none of whom had been immunised. The source was traced to a diphtheria carrier living next door, a London evacuee who had recently arrived.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Table VII.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1943.

Age Periods.				NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
				Resp't'y		non-Resp't'ry		Resp't'y		non-Resp't'ry	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years	0—1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
"	1—5	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
"	5—10	...	...	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
"	10—15	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
"	15—20	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
"	20—25	...	...	—	2	—	1	2	1	—	—
"	25—35	...	...	2	3	—	—	—	2	—	—
"	35—45	...	...	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
"	45—55	...	...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
"	55—65	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
"	65 & upwards	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals				5	7	2	3	4	4	—	1
				12		5		8		1	

C. H. T. WADE,

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE URBAN DISTRICT OF WHITEFIELD.

Public Health and Cleansing Department,
Town Hall,
Whitefield.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Whitefield.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my report of the Sanitary circumstances of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1944.

During the year, 1,402 premises have been visited, 182 defects or nuisances were found and 142 abated, 117 informal and 5 statutory notices were served.

May I express to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, Clerk to the Council, Medical Officer of Health and Staff in general my appreciation of the valued assistance and co-operation, shown to me during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

B. HODGSON,

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	151
Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	167
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Factories re F.W. Acc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Dwelling Houses :—Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Re-visits.:—Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Builders and Owners Interviewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Infestation Order	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	152
Cleansing Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
Casualty Services	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	220
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Farmers and Dairymen Interviewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Total								1,402

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.**Interior of Houses.**

Ceiling and walls re-plastered	...	...	...	...	1
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	5
Dampness abated	...	...	...	...	7
Windows repaired	..	...	...	...	3
Fire Ranges repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Doors repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Washing Boilers repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	2
Adequate Water Supply provided	...	...	...	...	2
Water from under floors removed	...	...	...	...	3

Exterior of Houses.

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
Walls pointed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Chimneys repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	4
Eaves, Gutters, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	8
Yards repaved or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rain water pipes renewed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Brickwork repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1

Drainage.

Drains Cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	21
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	7
Inspection Chambers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1

Sanitary Conveniences.

W.C. Fittings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
W.C. Cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	1

Accommodation for House Refuse.

Dust Bins renewed	...	...	...	...	...	59
Disused Ashpits abolished	...	...	...	...	...	2

Micellaneous.

Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Nuisances from keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	4

Food Inspection and Supervision.

The duties appertaining to the Supervision of the Food Supply have received careful attention throughout the year.

It will be observed from the tabulated list of inspections, that of the 1,402 inspections made, 348 were to premises where food was prepared or sold.

Milk Supply.

During the period under consideration, efforts in connection with milk control have been concentrated on routine inspections of all premises where milk is produced, stored or sold, and the taking of samples.

23 samples of un-designated and 3 designated milks were taken and submitted for examination. According to the test prescribed for Accredited milk, 7 of these or 28% failed to pass the methylene Blue test, and 8 or 32% failed to pass the coliform test.

It will be observed from the above figures that the percentage of unsatisfactory samples is high, and has been the cause of great concern to the department. On investigation being made one has been confronted with the question of lack of labour to carry out the essential requirements for the production of clean milk, nevertheless I feel that the cause of the unsatisfactory samples was not altogether due to the lack of labour, but the failure in many respects to carry out the essential requirements which was proved on the taking of further samples.

In one instance, it was necessary to call upon a producer to appear before the Health Committee due to repeated unsatisfactory samples.

20 samples were taken and submitted for biological examination, 3 samples, i.e. 15%, were found positive. The cases were reported to the County Council and appropriate action taken.

Milk (Special Designation) Orders 1936/1938.

There are two Accredited farms in the area which are subject to licence by the County Council.

The following supplementary licence was issued during the year.

Supplimentary Licence to Sell Pasteurised Milk	...	2
------------------------------------------------	-----	---

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

1 licence was issued under the above Act during the year, the number of persons holding licences at the close of the year, 4.

Retail Meat Shops.

Regular inspections were made during the year of all butchers' premises and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

The number of Butcher's shops in the area at the close of the year was 16.

Meat and Other Foods.

10 pigs were slaughtered under Licence granted by the Ministry of Food, in all cases the department is notified by the Food Executive Officer, of all Licences granted to Slaughter animals in the area, after which the carcasses are examined.

The undermentioned articles of food were on examination found to be unfit for food and surrendered:—

26	Tins of Pilchards.
6	Tins of Stewed Steak.
9	Tins of Pork Luncheon Meat.
23	Tins of Corned Beef.
1	Tin of Chopped Ham.
9	Tins of Salmon.
1	Tin of Pork Sausage.
3	Tins of Soup.
11	Tins of Beans.
1,030	Tins of Milk.
1	Tin of Cooked Ox Tongue.
1	Tin of Butter.
1	Tin of Mutton.
2	Tins of Peas.
13	lbs. of Ham.
47	lbs. of Raisins.
20	Imported Livers.
1	Pig's Head.
	Part of forequarter of Pork. (30 lbs.)
	Side of Pork. (122 lbs.)
	Part of shoulder and half head of Pork. (26 lbs.)
	Side of Beef. (330 lbs.)

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

Infestation Order, 1943.

152 Inspections and re-inspections were made in relation to Rat Infestation during the year, advice was given in each case.

Special attention was paid to the Council's refuse tip and Sewage Works.

Sanitary Accommodation.

During the period under review, 6 waste water closets were converted into fresh water closets, 2 waste water closets were abolished and 1 fresh water closet provided.

The following table gives details of the sanitary accommodation in the area on 31st December, 1944.

Fresh Water Closets	...	...	...	3,966
Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	120
Privy Closets	...	...	...	52
Privy Middens	...	...	...	29
Pail Closets	...	...	...	41
Dry Ashpits	...	...	...	2
Dust Bins	...	...	...	4,211

Factories Act, 1937.

Factories (Mechanical and Non-Mechanical).

22 Inspections were made to factory premises during the year, 1 complaint was received from H.M. Inspector of Factories, which was attended to on the owner's attention being drawn.

The following improvements were carried out during the period under review.

Fresh Water Closets provided	...	...	6
Waste Water Closets abolished	...	...	2
Urinals provided	...	...	2
Lavatory basins fixed	...	...	6

Bakehouses.

There are 14 bakehouses on the register all of which have been satisfactorily maintained during the year.

Public Cleansing Service.

The subject matter of this section of the report deals with the year ending 31st March, 1945, as distinct which is for the year ending 31st December, 1944.

During the period under review every effort has been made to maintain an efficient service, which at times has been difficult due to the inability to obtain dust bins, also the quality of fuel used has resulted in an increase in the weight of refuse to be collected.

There has been an appreciable reduction in the weight of salvaged materials collected as against last year, which after six years of war can be understood as most of the avenues especially in respect to the salvage of waste paper, had been exhausted.

The number of salvage stewards remains the same, and our thanks are due to these ladies for carrying out a very important work.

The following table gives details of work done.

Bins emptied ...	...	...	...	137,657
Pails emptied ...	...	...	...	1,020
Privies emptied	...	...	...	120
Loads collected	...	...	...	950

The following is a tabulated statement of salvaged materials collected and sold:—

Materials.	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Paper ...	86	14	—	—	574	8	6
Rags ...	4	3	2	4	87	14	4
Woollens ...	—	4	3	23	18	11	5
Carpet\$...	—	7	—	7	2	2	4
Canvas ...	1	2	—	17	6	13	3
String ...	—	5	3	—	1	14	1
Bottles ...	24	18	2	—	51	6	4
Bones ...	2	8	1	8	11	9	7
Boots ...	1	12	1	—	10	17	0
Rubber ...	1	—	1	8	3	9	2
Aluminium ...	—	1	2	20	4	2	4
Cast Aluminium ...	—	—	2	13	0	8	10
Brass ...	—	1	—	20	0	16	10
Copper ...	—	—	3	7	1	6	2
Lead ...	—	2	—	—	1	12	1
Battery Lead ...	—	1	2	21	0	16	4
Spleter ...	—	—	2	8	0	4	3
Scrap Iron ...	2	1	—	—	5	2	5
Kitchen Waste ...	83	7	1	—	140	9	0
Concentrate ...	10	1	—	—	49	8	6
					£972 12 9		

